

THE BEHRING SEA VERDICT.

AMERICA PRACTICALLY WINS.

TECHNICAL POINTS DECIDED IN FAVOR OF
GREAT BRITAIN

A CLOSE SEASON AND A PROTECTED ZONE.

THE CLAIM OF THE UNITED STATES TO EX-
CLUSIVE JURISDICTION IN BEHRING SEA DE-
NIED, BUT STRINGENT REGULATIONS
FOR THE PROTECTION OF SEALS

ADOPTED—THE USE OF STEAM
VESSELS, FIREARMS AND
EXPLOSIVES FOR-
DEN,—AMERICAN
ARBITRATORS
SATISFIED.

Paris, Aug. 15.—The decision of the Behring
Sea Tribunal of Arbitration was given out at
11:07 o'clock this morning. The five points of
Article VI. of the American claims are decided
against the United States.

The tribunal adopted regulations establishing a close season in Behring Sea and the North Pacific Ocean, to begin on May 31, and to end on July 31. A protected zone, extending for sixty miles around the islands, is also established. Pelagic sealing is to be allowed outside this zone in Behring Sea after August 1. The use of firearms, nets, explosives and steam vessels in sealing is forbidden.

The consensus of opinion among the American agents and counsel is that though technical success rests with Great Britain on legal points, or practical grounds the victory is to the United States, as the arbitration was entered upon to preserve the seals, and the decision achieves that result.

The award, after specifying the nine regulations, quotes the British statement of facts regarding searches and seizures in Behring Sea, and

indorsed by American counsel and pronounced by

the arbitrators to be true. It closes with these words:

"We, Baron de Coudenc, Lord Haanen, John M. Harlan, Sir John S. D. Thompson, John T. Morgan, Marcuis Emilio Visconti-Venosta and Rogers W. W. Gram, the respective minorities not withdrawing their votes, do declare this to be the final decision and award in writing of this Tribunal, in accordance with the treaty made in duplicate at Paris and signed by us on the 15th of August, 1893."

In bidding the members of the Tribunal good by Baron de Coudenc expressed great satisfaction with the proceedings of the Tribunal, and remarked the exceptional harmony and good feeling which prevailed throughout their deliberations.

Sir Charles Russell, British counsel, and Charles

H. Tipper, British agent, have gone to London. All the Englishmen connected with the tribunal are exceedingly reticent in their opinions of the decision, and apparently are disappointed because it was not more unfavorable to the United States.

JUSTICE HARLAN GRATIFIED.

Justice Harlan expressed the opinion this evening that the regulations established by the tribunal would check pelagic sealing, and thus far toward accomplishing one of the chief aims of the United States. The general result of the arbitration, he thought, was far in advance of anything that the United States had demanded. The members of the tribunal reserved the right to prepare and file individual opinions in the case at any time before January 1.

John W. Foster, American agent before the tribunal, said that under the decision of the tribunal no pelagic sealing can now be carried on between May 1 and July 31. After that time such sealing may be prosecuted in Behring Sea at a distance of sixty miles from the

This decision limits pelagic sealing to

Mr. Foster said he thought that the restrictions would render pelagic sealing unprofitable. The provision for a close season will not only prevent pelagic hunting during three out of the four months when it can be said to be very profitable, but will break the sealing season. The two forces of sealers suspend operations during the best part of the summer. The decision leaves the right to hunt seals in the North Pacific from January to May. The weather during three-fourths of that period is very unfavorable, and the catches then made are always small. It also leaves the right to hunt seals in the waters of Behring Sea after July, which means for

a period of about twenty-five days, after the e

period of a week, during which rough weather compels the hunters to leave the sea. During those twenty-five days the hunters can neither come within sixty miles of the Pribilof Islands nor use any weapon except spears. Though the Indians are permitted to hunt seals along the coast from their canoes, the catch always made by them is small.

AN ADVANTAGEOUS SETTLEMENT.

Mr. Foster added: "True, the United States have not obtained all they contended for, since the total prohibition of seal hunting was not secured."

they demanded the total prohibition of sealing, but the regulations now made are much better than those Mr. Blaine vainly offered Lord Salisbury in 1890 as a settlement. Mr. Blaine then proposed as the sole restriction on pelagic sealing to prohibit it within sixty miles of the Pribilof Islands. The present settlement is also more advantageous than the one proposed

by Mr. Bayard in 1838, as he asked no protection

by Mr. Harlan during May and June. It has since been found that the operations of the pelagic hunters were most destructive to pregnant seals during these two months."

Major Williams, one of the American attaches, said that the result of the regulations would probably be the abandonment of the Canadian pelagic hunting, as it will not pay under the restrictions imposed.

Justice Harlan will proceed at once to Switzerland to prepare his opinion. He will sail with his family for America probably on September 27. Senator Morgan will leave Paris on Thursday and will sail on the steamship New-York from Southampton on Saturday.

MEETING OF THE ARBITRATORS.

At 9 o'clock this morning the seven arbitrators held a private session in a room used by the British Legation for the treatment of Foreign Affairs.

officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

the Quai d'Orsay. At 11 o'clock the arbitrators reassembled in the room in the Foreign Office in which the public sessions of the Tribunal had been held.

Baron de Courcel, the president of the Tribunal then delivered to the agents of the United States and Great Britain original copies of the decision signed by all the arbitrators. Baron de Courcel afterward addressed the arbitrators, saying that he recognized the great value of arbitration as a cause of peace between nations. He expressed his opinion that every international arbitration renders war less probable, and said he looked forward to the time in the near future when it would be the rule and not the exception to settle international differences in this way.

Senator John T. Morgan, one of the American arbitrators, and Lord Hannan, one of the arbitrators appointed by Great Britain, responded to Baron de Courcel, declaring that they recognized the sentiments expressed by him, and they recognized the hospitality extended by France to the arbitrators. The session terminated amid mutual congratulations and expressions of good feeling.